F2021.0-2277

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 17, 1982

Dear Mr. Hollenbeck:

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your letter of February 3. We have been very active in bringing the issue of chemical weapons use before the world public. We have raised this issue on several occasions with the Soviet Union, thus far without effect. We have made our evidence available to the UN and to all its member countries. We have sent our experts to a number of European capitals, and to New York, where they met with the UN Experts. We have indicated our hope that the UN Experts continue their inquiry, and travel at least to all of those countries neighboring the scenes of conflict -- they have visited Thailand, and will soon visit Pakistan -- to interview refugees and other sources. We have also encouraged other nations and other private organizations, including journalists, to mount their own inquiries into what is going on in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan. The ABC Documentary "Rain of Terror" was a direct result of our efforts to focus world opinion on the problem.

Our objective is to stop these attacks. We will keep this issue before the world community, and on the international agenda as long as we need to do so.

We were actively involved in promoting the establishment, by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1980, of an impartial UN investigation of CW use. And the US vigorously pursued renewal of the mandate of the UN investigative group of experts at this year's UNGA. We were gratified at the overwhelming vote in favor of its renewal (86 in favor to 20 opposed, with 32 abstentions). We have fully supported and cooperated with this UN investigation, and we will continue to do so.

The Honorable
Harold C. Cap Hollenbeck,
House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY T. Hewson DATE 8/31/82
RDS ☑ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS. ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

We are also reviewing other means to focus world opinion on this issue. If we are to succeed, we must make sure this is not simply perceived as a US-Soviet contest, from which others can disengage. This means we must ensure our evidence is made as widely available as possible, while avoiding any appearance of engaging in a propaganda campaign. For our efforts are to have any utility, others must take this information as seriously as we.

I hope this information is helpful, and if I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Powell A. Moore
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

drafted by: PM/TMP:FCelec
2/12/82 x24761

Cleared by: PM:RDean